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(71) Applicant: **MITSUBISHI DENKI KABUSHIKI**  
**KAISHA**  
**Tokyo 100-8310 (JP)**

(72) Inventors:  
• **Pfister, Hanspeter**  
**Somerville, Massachusetts 02143 (US)**  
• **van Baar, Jeron**  
**1788 VR. Den Helder (NL)**  
• **Oosterbaan, Collin E.**  
**2461 SK Langeraar (NL)**

(74) Representative: **Pfenning, Meinig & Partner**  
**Mozartstrasse 17**  
**80336 München (DE)**

(54) **Method for interactively modeling graphical objects**

(57) A method generates a representation of a graphic object in a memory. A surface of the object is partitioned into a plurality of cells having a grid resolution related to an image plane resolution. A single zero-dimensional surface element is stored in the memory for each cell located on the surface of the object. A subset of the surface elements are selected as primary surface elements. The unselected surface elements are identified as secondary surface elements. Adjacent primary

surface elements are connected by links. Primary attributes of the portion of the object contained in a particular cell are assigned to the associated primary surface element and the links of the associated primary surface element. The unselected surface elements are partitioned into groups, there being one group for each primary surface element, and secondary attributes of the portion of the object contained in a particular cell are assigned to the associated secondary surface elements.

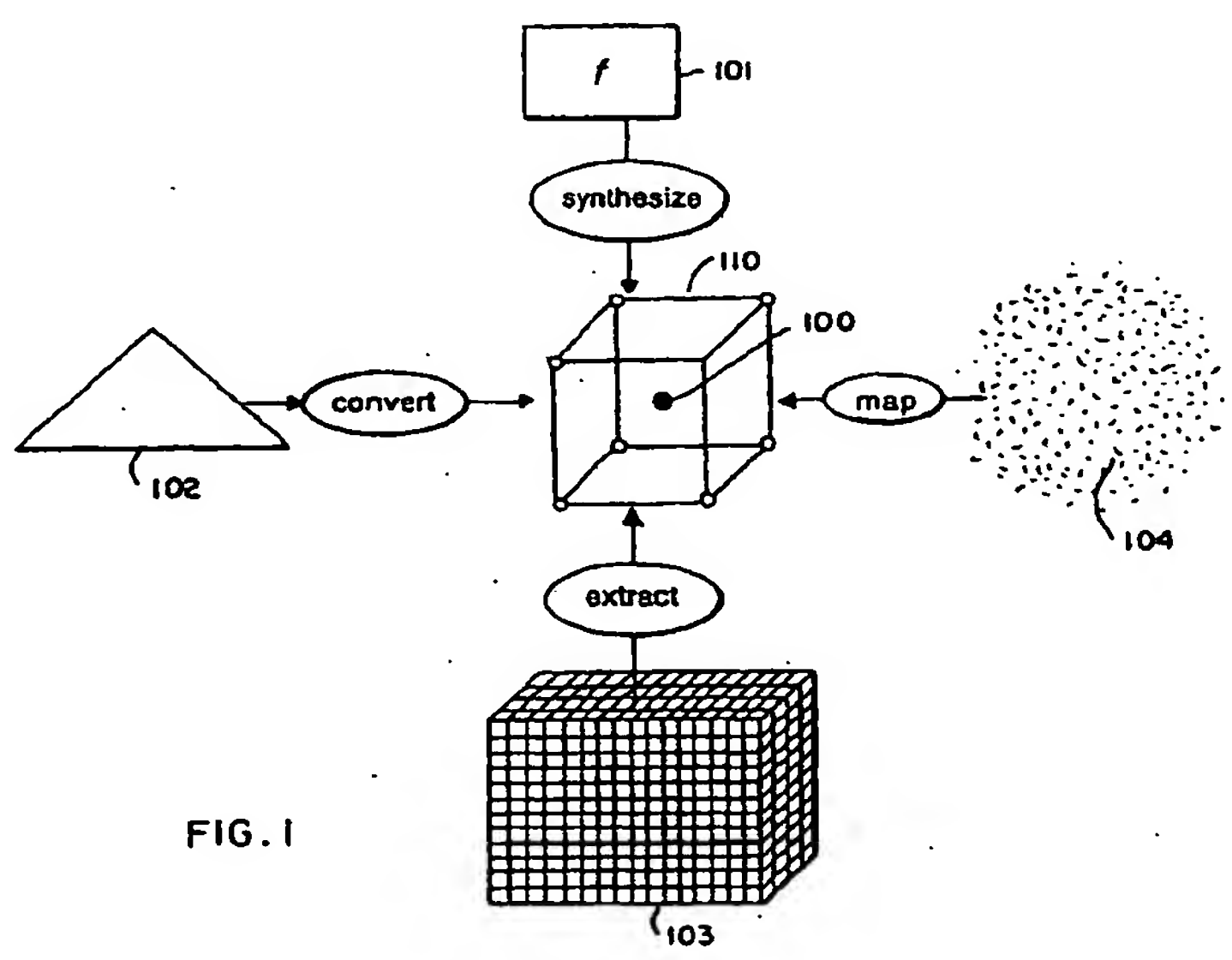


FIG. 1



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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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EP 00 11 5915

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT					
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims					
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 28 April 2003	Examiner Engels, A		
<table border="0"> <tr> <td> <b>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</b>  X : particularly relevant if taken alone  Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category  A : technological background  O : non-written disclosure  P : intermediate document </td> <td> T : theory or principle underlying the invention  E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date  D : document cited in the application  L : document cited for other reasons  &amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document </td> </tr> </table>				<b>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</b> X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document	T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document
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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 00 11 5915

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The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
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28-04-2003

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